VUSAC Meeting Agenda

**Call to order:** 5:40 pm EST, February 3, 2023

**Land Acknowledgement:**

*Rebecca*

*To begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are currently gathered on the land that has been home to many Indigenous people over the years, including the Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, the Anishinabeg, the Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Toronto is a territory covered by Treaty 13, otherwise known as the Toronto Purchase, signed in 1805 between the British crown and the Mississauga group. It is also covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenenant, an agreement between the Anishinaabe, the Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee to share this land equitably.*

*Knowing the land we live on and who it belongs to is important, but it means very little if it ends there. As many of us here, including myself, are settlers on this land, it is our responsibility to learn more than just what we hear in land acknowledgements, and to educate ourselves without putting the burden on Indigenous people.*

*This week alone, 5 RCMP officers in Prince George, BC, were charged with either manslaughter or obstruction of justice in connection with the death of Dale Culver in 2017. Culver was a father of 3 member of the Wet'suwet'en and Gitxsan First Nations in BC, and his tragic death was one of the many acts of blatant racism against Indigenous people that continually occurs to this day. Even after public protests, it still took six years for these officers to be charged. From drinking water advisories, to the mental health crisis disproportionately affecting Indigenous people, colonialism is omnipresent. We contribute to this, as we attend a university that continues to invest in fossil fuels. This needs to change.*

*So, we start with land acknowledgements, knowing that this will never be sufficient, and that we much do more in order to combat the long-lasting and continual affects of colonialism in our lives.*

**Official Regrets:** Vincent Espenida, Pooja Ajit, Dhir Shah

**Absent:**

**Additions to the agenda:**

Update by Diana Vink

**Approval of the agenda:**

*Motion by Diana Vink to approve the agenda for Month Day, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

*Motion: Carol F/N L/N motions to grant Ali Kehl speaking rights, seconded by F/N L/N Michael*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Ali: Shoutout to Amelia, Gardiner Gala was a huge success. To Jackson and Soo, and the volunteers, thank you. I heard nothing but good things from the students. We have lots of events coming up, orientation exec applications are due soon, we have the VSEF forms for events in Goldring, and we’ll be hearing Maker Space updates from Caitriona.

ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee to sign the ASSU TTC attack open letter as a council, seconded by Juhyung Yun (3 minutes)*

Sooyeon: The president of the ASSU reached out to the various presidents of other colleges to sign the open letter. It summarizes the attacks on the TTC and state that the University should do more than just point to campus police. They don’t change long term safety conditions of the TTC. The University is an important lobbying body at the government and city level. It’s signed by the ASSU, UTSU, and UTMSU, and I think we should also put our names on the open letter especially if it’s going to be brought forward to the official government.

Julie: I’ll post it in our VUSAC groupchat right now if you’d like to look at it.

Zoe: I was a little confused about a certain aspect, but I don’t think we can change it since we’re just being asked to sign it.

Julie: Will VUSAC be doing something on their own?

Maarib: We have a commuter safety discussion item later in the meeting and it’s definitely one of the ideas we can do as a council, what we can do as VUSAC and as students.

*Seventeen in favour. None opposed. One abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Diana Vink to approve Jackson Leslie's SPF application as it appears in Appendix B, seconded by Caitriona Federico (3 minutes)*

Jiwoo: Jackson requested to have $250 for his event, but an increase in funding would be appropriate for the attendance expected so it would be $350.

*Seventeen in favour. None opposed. One abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Michael Elsaesser to ratify Jenny Zeng and Zain Merali as the levy heads of the Victoria International Students Association, seconded by Jackson Leslie (2 minutes)*

Michael: Exceptional news for VISA, we now have two new VISA Co-Presidents! Jenny and Zain each had wonderful applications and gave astounding interviews. I know that they will be able to lead VISA and re-launch it for international students at Vic. Students have been eagerly waiting for VISA to get back up and running with events, and I know that this new team will be able to share that unique voice with the broader Vic community. I can’t wait to keep working with them and the whole new executive team in order to get VISA back up and running for the remainder of the term and onwards for more autonomy in the future. Very very happy news for VISA!

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Michael Elsaesser to ratify Callan Murphy, Çağla Akgül, Lila Carr, Jacob Stoutchinine, Spencer Abssy, Scott Johnston, Daphne Lin and Jiwoo Oh for the Student Projects Advisory Board, seconded by Jackson Leslie (2 minutes)*

Michael: As per the current Student Projects Operating Policy, appointees to the Student Projects Advisory Board need to be ratified by VUSAC. There was one appointee by the VUSAC President, one by VPE, One by VPI, one by VPSO, two by the Commuter Commission, one by the Dean’s Office, and of course the current Student Projects Chair. None of these appointees were allowed to be members of VUSAC, and their appointment needed to be justified to and approved by the Student Projects Chair Jiwoo. We’ll be having our meeting next week, where we’ll look at Student Projects spending and review their Operating Policy. Any changes to that policy will then be ratified by VUSAC.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Michael Elsaesser to ratify The Strand Constitution changes as it appears in Appendix C, seconded by Jackson Leslie (7 minutes)*

Michael: The Strand made some changes to their constitution. They changed how their honoraria works. Currently, the one or two editors in chief split $1000 and the Managing Editor gets $500. They have changed it so that there is an honoraria pool of $2000 which will be split by either two editors in chief, or one editor in chief and the managing editor. Overall, that means an increase of $500 in honoraria. They have also added in official policies relating to payment for services and what to do when agreed deliverables are not met. These changes have been passed by The Strand’s Board of Directors, we just give the final ratification for it. I know that Janna is here to speak on the justification for the honoraria change, and affirm its capacity within The Strand’s budget.

Janna: We checked how much that increase would be, so it’s $2000, which is not a significant amount of our budget, and it won’t impact our usual budgeting.

Jackson: I’m curious on how splitting the honoraria would work? I think that some people might feel like they don’t want the position cause the honoraria would be split, and offering co-positions as one instead so that it wouldn’t be split.

Janna: I don’t think it’s going to be an issue because people don’t really know that EICs get paid. The managing editor also only gets hired when there’s no more than one EIC.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Michael Elsaesser to ratify The Cat’s Eye Operating Policy changes as seen in Appendix D, seconded by Jackson Leslie (7 minutes)*

Michael: This Operating Policy was approved by the Cat’s Eye Advisory Board, which met today to go over these changes, receive updates on the lounge’s performance, and discuss future plans for the space. The main changes to this document are a formalised policy on resignations and honoraria disbursement, and how honoraria would be provided in the case of a resignation. Updates to the booking policy, mainly being the new booking form and specifying availability to all UofT groups with preference to VUSAC and our recognized Vic groups. As well as properly outlining the transition between Co-Managers, and other general updates to the Operating Policy to put it in line with how the Cat’s Eye actually functions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Goldring, put forth by Zoe Lazaris (10 minutes)*

Zoe: I just wanted to talk about this, I think a lot of students have been talking about how access to Goldring has been rolled back due to lack of opening hours.

Julie: I found out that you can go in through the back doors.

Ali: An update that’s probably useful–part of the reason why key access changed was because of a high-risk safety reason. Students are able to access the space outside of hours, all you have to do is go to the Marg Ad front desk.

Diana: I thought Goldring was closed on weekends until right now, unless there was an event. I didn’t know this was open for general student use on the weekends.

Jackson: I’m pretty sure it’s not open, I think people who are coming in here are doing things they shouldn’t be. I’m pretty sure it’s closed, we have to open it up with our key and sometimes the DO comes in and that opens up the back door.

Tariq: I was also under the impression that you could only open it when you’re a club. With DO it sounds like a funding issue that they don’t want to pay security on the weekend. If they’re pretty steadfast, would a potential student projects fund be a solution for that?

Sooyeon: Clubs usually don’t have their own space. Vic records has their own space. Right now, we’re doing the work so that administrative offices know that goldring is being used to capacity. If we want to start advocating for clubs to have their spaces, that’s where we are right now.

Michael: In terms of keys being able to be signed out, we want to get more keys for clubs and levies cause it’s been an issue with getting access to that one key. And Vic Records is up and running for their space, we did have to compromise so they can use their space.

Zoe: When I say we need access, I'm talking about non-VUSAC, people who dont have access to the space. There are other ways to make sure the space is secure, like Bahen where every CompSci student has their Tcard which is able to let them in. So that’s a 24 hour space, which reduces drug use according to Kelley. I think everyone in the clubs and levies should have a key to their space. There used to be access to these spaces and it is our space.

*Motion by Carolyn Gao to increase the discussion time by ten minutes, seconded by Sooyeon Lee.*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Rebecca: I don't really think it’s fair that the consequence to one generation’s issue is then the rule for everyone else. We should also just extend the hours of Goldring.

Sooyeon: With the issue with security, that puts us in a place where we can’t access a safe space. This ties into the TTC concerns, and shutting down Goldring makes Toronto unsafe for us.

Carolyn: I remember Kelley said getting a key was not the problem, but now they’re making it seem like we can’t get access to keys even if we’re on VUSAC, and it’s easy for us to get keys because we’re on VUSAC.

Michael: The issue has come up with the security concern that Marg Ad doesn't feel comfortable giving students those keys right now and providing general student access. But it means not being able to use that space if they’re not on some organization.

Diana: With Tariq’s question on student projects, I think that’d be a problem because we can’t fund recurring yearly purchases, but I also don’t think it sets a good precedent that students fund it when it’s an administrative issue.

Shane: We also can’t pay wages for security.

Jackson: I think something that came up is the fact we need or want keys when I think we should just have access to the space for longer periods of time. Last year when EJ used to close I would find myself never being able to go there. If Goldring was operating for a longer period of time, we’d be able to attract more students. I think it’s a good thing to bring up that the security issue is real, I think there are other ways to go about it. Security is our top priority but there are ways. There were cameras installed and there are other ways we can make it a safe space. Everyone should just be able to have access to the space.

Amy: What’s the rationale–how does closing it on the weekend for students make it safe?

Ali: It’s never open on the weekends.

Zoe: I don’t think we can say a space is open if you can only access it if you’re a club and levy. There’s a community that draws people to Goldring.

Julie: So what I’m hearing is that there are different tiers of capability. We should make a list of things that are easy to do, so identify what spaces are open currently. There are lots of wonderful buildings that are open and we should ask questions as to how they maintain that.

Diana: The violence in Toronto has been bad recently, so for a lot of students who aren't safe at home it is easier for students to stay on campus and spend less time at a dangerous space.

*Motion by Diana Vink to extend the discussion by one minute, seconded by Zoe Lazaris*

*All in favor. None opposed. None abstaining.*

Sooyeon: In the broad sense of the GSC, we have a kitchen, lounge, resources and other student offices. Isolation and the lack of community spaces makes people weaker and then there’s a sense of loneliness. There are alternate ways to address safety instead of shutting down community spaces. So in terms of action, we need to prove we use student space. And we’ll try to keep Goldring open and have it open on the weekends too.

*Changes to the office space, put forth by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)*

Lara: To preface, I want this discussion to be a space to discuss and debrief the feedback form, talk about the implementation of ideas, and hear feedback from council that I haven’t heard from. So, if you have spoken about this with me, thank you for your feedback, but I would like to hear from council that I haven’t spoken to yet. So firstly in terms of feedback, people’s favorites included printing and snacks, and least favorite aspects were the clutter, it was small, and it’s unsure when you’re allowed to visit. People would visit more often if there was more seating, and there were homey aspects like plants, pillows, etc. In terms of implementation, I’d like to move the table against the pillar, and figure out a way to utilise the half-wall, making printing and studying towards the window. I want to make a conversation pit wth the couches, and have the boardroom as a quiet study space and just have more of a flow in the office space. I also think it’s worth noting that there’s a cultural aspect to why people don’t come in. This ties into office hours, I think we need to be more aware of the people when we’re on the desk. Anyways, I’d like to open this space for any feedback.

Julie: So in terms of culture, some people think that the boardroom is only for VUSAC members so if we can figure out how to move conversations into another space that would be good.

Cam: What about the back office?

Lara: Yeah I’ll be cleaning out and organizing the back office too.

Diana: I know there are levy materials in the office too, I don’t know why they’re in our office.

Sooyeon: So part of the reason there are so many levy things is because during COVID, levy offices were half open and stuff was directed into the VUSAC office. I think it’s worth asking though because I feel like at some point, what is the function of the VUSAC office? A lot of the feedback that we got would make us equivalent to the Cat’s Eye but there already is that space. So, what is the function of the office? Do we do conversation, services?

Agrata: On the question on what is the VUSAC space, coming from the levy meeting, VUSAC can offer being able to book out the boardroom.

Carolyn: If you want to make VUSAC more known, there can be posters in residence.

Jackie: There also needs to be more directions as to where the VUSAC office is. We were giving out the hand warmers and the beanies, and someone DMed asked where the office is.

Medha: For the first years I think when it comes Goldring people don’t know where things are. And in general, if you want to study later, because Goldring closes at a certain point, it’s not worth going if you can’t stay. I know a lot of people study in the commuter lounge, so maybe it’s a lack of open space and it might be not as inviting.

Rebecca: I think signs pointing would be really helpful and having an orientation event to show people around Goldring too

Maarib: I think for the Office and Goldring as a whole, we need to get more UofT students here–whether that’s in Cat’s Eye or the office. We need to show we’re using student space and we can us Communitea or another small weekly event where students can drop in and the VUSAC office where people are regularly there. The handwarmers and beanies were a really good idea, keeping some in the office for really cold days might be nice. We should also reach out to Instagram accounts advertising VUSAC as a study space.

*Motion by Tariq Harney to extend the discussion by five minutes, seconded by Michael Elsaesser.*

*All in favor. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Ali: I think the best thing we can do is make the atrium your living room. You can have 2-3 events and give away things there, using it as a main space because the atrium is not as intimidating.

Tariq: In terms of the VUSAC office—I think it’s good that there’s an atmosphere and life there, we just need to figure out a way to get other students in there.

Juhyung: I think we can make a poster on the layout of Goldring, and show what each space offers–so free printing, snacks, etc. We should also have QR codes and the information in residences and Burwash dining hall. We could also hold an event for first years in the office.

Kate: Yeah so we can show where we have snacks, putting that and making that information more accessible.

*Commuter Safety, put forth by Maarib Kirmani Haseeb (10 minutes)*

Emilie: As we are sure you are all aware, transit- specifically the TTC, has had many random acts of violence occurring at multiple subways stations, on streetcars and in trains. In case you are unaware, since the new year there have been robberies, stabbings and an even attack on a streetcar near campus. This is unsettling for everyone, but specifically to students who rely on transit to get to and from school. On January 31, the Provost released an email sending commuting safety resources, as well as disclosed a victim of one of these attacks was a UofT student. This however is not new; we have been taking transit for multiple years and there have always been instances where the subway became unsafe to ride, specifically at certain hours of the day and in certain areas of the city. These attacks of violence are now especially concerning because they are usually unprovoked, random, and are occuring at all times of the day.

As representatives of commuter students, we feel it is important to address safety concerns students have, and we would like to hear what the rest of the council thinks we can do to help address these events and concerns. We would also like to hear your concerns as commuters, and if there are any suggestions you have to help people feel and be safe while commuting.—There are only so many things we can do as a commission when it comes to these violent acts; like I don't really know what we can recommend or make better and there aren’t individual solutions to stop random acts of violence.

Maarib: I have some ideas to get us started.

Agrata: If there are events, there can be someone at Goldring who can go with them off campus. We can also have a set of resources that would make people feel safer.

Michael: So Toronto is cutting TTC funds, we should join with other student unions and use collective solidarity to bring attention to that.

Shane: Going with other unions would be great, like the UTSU, but I don’t want that to take the place of other actions we might take. I would want us to keep in mind that we should be doing things along with putting out a statement. This issue presents a lot of topics with the police and TTC as well.

Julie: After all this happened, police has increased presence on the TTC. I think we need to write a statement that this isn't an isolated incident, and if you see something going on consider calling 911. Is there anyone else you can call? Could we have a self defense workshop?

Lara: I know VOICES is doing a self defense workshop.

Amy: I’ve done work with TTC Riders, we should send an email collaborating with them if we’re going to the UTSU. Organizing is a lot of work and we should work with people already doing the work.

Zoe: TTC Riders does a lot of grassroots organizing. We should send VUSAC to Town Hall and get connected with those people organizing, that’s on Feb 9 at 7PM.

Jackson: For Highball in terms of safety it would be good idea to sign up for a buddy to commute to. I’m not sure how it’d be thought because I don't want to promise people that there will be people to go home with them going home. I know that Commuter was trying to do Vic Safety Alarms with Student Projects–it’s not going to do a lot but it is worth looking into.

*Motion by Maarib Haseeb to extend the discussion by ten minutes, seconded by Tariq Harney.*

*All in favor. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Emilie: Maarib and I have been trying to do the community safety alarms since last semester.

Cam: Building off of what someone said, Toronto police has been reporting on their social media platforms and this is aligning with their budgeting period, with the dramatic posts about the TTC. The high visibility of incidents are scary and it’s not a conspiracy theory but there’s a narrative that the TTC and that the police would keep it safe. Personally I don’t feel safe with armed police on the TTC.

Rebecca: The first video on Toronto Police’s Instagram is a video and it’s a woman talking about

the push for the need for budget increase.

Shane: When the Provost emailed what they recommended were community safety resources that were pointless. There’s a Campus safety app where you can get a buddy, but you can also call a cop to walk you around campus.

Sooyeon: Maybe applying to student projects for Uber gift cards would be worth looking into?

Lara: I think that Uber gift cards might be a bit of an issue because you can’t guarantee that the student is spending it on a ride, I also just think we should steer away from gift cards.

Shane: It’s also a recurring cost, you’d run out and have to apply again.

Jackson: I think we should encourage safety in other ways, with Uber gift cards how are we going to regulate those safety funds?

Amy: It’s important that if we start giving Uber gift cards we’re endorsing the narrative that the TTC is unsafe. We need to stand by public transit, and it’s not really a good solution. That’s $24 every single day, I don’t think VUSAC has the funds for that

Cam: I think there’s two classes of commuters–those that live close to UofT and my safety concerns are not as vivid compared to people commuting farther on the TTC. I think we need to divide the approach–put more lights on the paths at Vic, they planned on installing that but they didn’t. It might be effective to do a groupchat where people find each other.

Maarib: I think it’s a privacy or safety concern, it would be different if we filled out a form and had people mention the general direction they were going. We can ask them to meet at Goldring and head there with someone.

Lara: I know that there used to be a discount code for Ubers for students, can we somehow have that for the TTC?

Maarib: There’s a commuter program with Presto on the reduced transit pass, and we were redirected to TTC that they weren’t responsible for it–we reached out to the UTSU on this. It might be worth looking into a commuter fund for students. The DO has a commuter experience fund, and if anyone is interested to work on this with me then just let me know

*Motion by Maarib Haseeb to extend the discussion by five minutes, seconded by Tariq Harney.*

*All in favor. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Carolyn: I also know that the discounted rate is on an application basis only.

Sooyeon: If you’re a non-man you’re way more at risk and it’s important to consider some groups are more at risk than others. The Toronto police board is receiving a budget increase so keep that in mind when thinking about programming and advocacy work.

Tariq: I was talking to Callan, and I had heard part of their new budget was for a minority community member to engage with other minority communities.

Shane: Were they associated with the police? I think that’s tokenization.

Sooyeon: Regardless, police are still police.

*UMLAP Updates, put forth by Zoe Lazaris (10 minutes)*

Zoe: Shane and I went to the last Governing Council and they talked about UMLAP, which if they deem you unfit they can remove you from your studies. They made amendments like removing harm to self, and police from support time. But this still raises questions of how people will have access to health and dental, and if you’re an international student you should have access to student immigration advisors. At the end of the day, UofT central has a false dichotomy where if you’re a student, UMLAP can be used on you. We can still oppose that and there’s still a lot we can do.

Shane: It’s not clarified when this would be used in one of those instances, there’s no question if there’s a retroactive use of the policy. It’s hard cause a lot of the changes are good but the policy is still pretty vague and so is the descrioption of the threshold. Also, it’s not called UMLAP anymore it’s now supported leave of absence policy. The next governing council meeting is on Feb 7th, but the Feb 15 one you can go to that one.

Lara: I personally didn’t know about UMLAP until I got into VUSAC, and I know that a lot of people don’t know what it is. I think we should run some sort of information campaign so that people know that these policies are being enacted and in place.

Shane: Maybe we could do something on Instagram so people are aware?

Michael: I agree, we should get the word out, make sure students are aware. This also exists after the crisis has started so we should also focus on prevention.

Zoe: We should plug APUS and SCSU, and see how we can support those student unions.

Cam: Are we formally against UMLAP?

Zoe: We’ve done two statements.

Jackie: There’s a link in our Linktree–it’s at the very end because there’s everything else going on. If you want to do posts on our Instagram you can submit the form.

Shane: It’s also unknown what it means for international students. I don't know if that holds up along with their study permit and all.

Ninon: I have a friend, she's not getting UMLAP but the university is encouraging her to drop her studies. And so your study permit stops.

Shane: I don't think this is an unfair assumption to make but there are backgrounds and homes that aren’t safe for them so for you to be kicked out of residence and return to them, that’s not fair.

Maarib: How many times has the policy been used?

Shane: Their statistics say seventeen times overall.

Michael: For VUSAC, have we put pressure on Vic admin on voicing out to UofT?

Amy: When they UMLAP you, is it mandatory leave, or is there a process to be reinstated?

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the discussion by five minutes, seconded by Sooyeon Lee.*

*All in favor. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Shane: They would assign a person to watch over them and assess if they’re ready to get back to university. And after reading the policy, it’s up to the student case manager if you’re ready to go back.

Diana: According to canada.ca, you need to be enrolled at a designated institution and I guess UMLAP would be a temporary suspension of those studies.

Zoe: I think this fails to recognize that one person impacts a whole lot more people, and the fear of this happening hangs over UofT students all the time. We have networks and communities and it extends past that and mental health is not an isolated issue.

Charlie: For the Visa part if you’re not actively participating they will remove your Visa and if you reenter Canada, it’ll be a problem to reenter, and a problem to reapply.

Diana: There is a grace period but if your study permit is invalid they could deport you.

Shane: I think our conversation is also highlighting how important it is to go to governing council meetings.

Liam: If you all know about UMLAP and we’re scared of it being used what more others who don’t know how it’s used or implemented. It’s good that they removed the harm to self because they can disclose mental health crises, but it’s still a scary thing.

Jackie: As everyone already said, international students will encounter problems with the study permit and visa when they are dealt through UMLAP. However, another problem that they will encounter is explaining the story to their families, dealing with the stigma and other factors depending on different cultural contexts, which can all interact to aggravate the problem rather than helping them in any way. So, I think this aspect should be considered when discussing the application of UMLAP to international students.

*Maker space opening, put forth by Caitriona Federico (10 minutes)*

Caitriona: There’s a room by the commuter lounge called the maker space, and then COVID hit before it opened. There’s equipment in there that’s purchased for student use and it’s open for all students. I got an email with the list of equipment–3D printer, audio recording, green screen, seqing maching, cricket machine, fabrics, etc. The equipment is expensive and could harm students if they dont know how to use it so I want to find students who are experienced and interested to learn how to use this. So how can we facilitate helping each other out, could we maybe hold office hours so that it’s accessible to those who want to use it? There would have to be a signing of a waiver, we also need to promote the space, so if you have interest and know someone who does, let me know!

Julie: Daniels Faculty has laser cuts and lasers because it’s part of our curriculum, so they have laser cut training and orientation. They also design a waiver for work study students who are training others. But will it be on a volunteer basis? Not a lot of people have those skills and they should be paid for it.

Sooyeon: Do these students need to be Vic or can Daniels come and teach us?

Caitriona: If there are Vic students that are willing then otherwise we can reach out to external sources. The funding option was explored but not necessarily.

Diana: There are Adobe programs I know–you could reach out to Vic Art Studio cause they’re probably literate in using other softwares. You can also reach out to VEFS. At the moment it’s a key in Marg Ad to access the room. For the Daniel’s laser there’s a complication cause what if someone needs to be in the room but I don’t need to use it, how many people can fit up there?

Catiriona: About eight at a time can fit, if someone wants to use the room while 3D printing I don’t think that’ll be much of an issue. In terms of keys, there would be a booking system.

Liam: The Dons and DO have been discussing the Maker Space since September, so it’s interesting that you’ve had trouble getting access but we don't seem to have an issue.

Zoe: What are they considering dangerous in the room?

Caitriona: You could also damage the equipment, so if you don’t know how to use the computers you could damage them.

Sooyeon: There’s drop in hours at Bissell where you can have an hour constultaiton with people who know how to use the equipment. Maybe we can connect with them, maybe pay them to have information sessions.

Charlie: Would you recruit volunteers to run the space?

Carolyn: We’d be getting people who know how to help but what if you have safety teaching for someone to use it and they get hurt?

Diana: They would have to sign a waiver for training.

STAFF REPORTS:

*Communications: Jackie (3 minutes)*

Jackie: I have recently updated the Arts & Culture’s commission page on the website before the start of the winter term. Now, the Equity, Mental Wellness, and Scarlet & Gold Commissions did not submit their website forms to set up the website page. Please remember that you must submit these forms within this year, and you cannot choose not to. So, please submit them as I will send you a reminder with the form attached. The e-newsletter has been transitioned into bi-weekly instead of monthly; and it’s also being sent through the Listserv to all Vic students instead of going through the subscription list as we decided last term. Also, a reminder, I always attach the communications request form to the newsletter submission from email. So, if you have anything that you wish to promote, please use this form, there is nothing else required other than simply filling out this form. Some of you might already be aware but I usually deal with them in one to two days to post them, but I’ve noted that you should submit it at least a week before, so although things may be urgent, please be aware of this rule and that you don’t think I can always do them asap. So, please just read over the notice written in the form, otherwise, utilize them as much as you want to promote the great ideas you all have. Anyways, the final point of this report is, once again, the semi-annual report that’s coming up with the Caucus meeting that’s approaching. I’ve already sent out the email last week with the submission form, guideline, and a link to past reports attached to it. The hard deadline of the report is Monday, 20th of February, which is the start of the reading week - which means that there is no reason for you to be late. I will not be granting any extensions because I cannot. Since there is three weeks left until the deadline, please plan out to write the report in advance to avoid being late. If you don't, then the report will be published, which everyone can access, and see that you simply did not submit the report - which is definitely not good for you, so let's all submit it by the deadline. However, as you all experienced last term, I will be sending out multiple reminders as we approach the deadline. If you don’t want to receive them, then don’t delay it until the last minute because I will remove you from the list once you submit it. Thank you!

COMMISSION REPORTS:

*Arts & Culture: Amelia (5 minutes)*

Amelia: Gardiner Gala was successful and I’ve heard positive reviews. The Bob sketch is going to Skidmore Festival next week.

*Commuter: Maarib & Emilie (3 minutes)*

Maarib: VOCA started the semester off very strong, launching multiple programs in January. Firstly, we re-opened locker rentals in the commuter lounge. We also opened the winter programming survey, where at our next VOCA meeting we will hear about what students want to see in terms of events and programming for the rest of the year. Our advocacy duo Zaiboon and Leeanne did a Vic college sweater raffle giveaway, where they had over 200 people fill out the form. Our events duo ran an event last Friday in the atrium, making vision boards for 2023. We have left over canvases from the event, so if you are looking to do a painting/collage event let us know and we can give some to you. Our collabs duo Aimee and Jiwoo are running a board game cafe night next thursday in the cats eye and we think you should all go :). Our comms duo have recently started VOCA instagram exec takeovers which will continue for the next three weeks, so make sure to follow along. They also opened the winter photo contest form, so if you have any good winter photos you should submit them! We have put a deposit down on the beavertails truck, and have confirmed the date of March 10 from 12-4pm. We had our first meeting with off-campus reps on January for Commuter AW! For those that don’t know, CAW is a five-day event where the colleges all collaborate to run events throughout the week. As of right now, we have confirmation from New College, Innis, and St Mikes that they would like to join us. This year, Vic will be hosting community mural painting, origami and clay painting, PRESTO ticket giveaway, and Beavertail truck. We’ll have a raffle prize at the end (uoft merch + month’s fully loaded PRESTO card) to incentivize participation and students get more entries the more events they attend.

Emilie: Pancakes are also back- we have had 3 pancakes this term so far. They started off a little rocky with some equipment breaking right at the beginning of the term, but it has now all been replaced and all our supplies has been restocked. We started a new collab program with VOCA pancakes and have opened up pancakes to collab with other commissions, clubs, levies and student unions where they can run a small event or program in the Cats eye while we serve pancakes. We get a lot of traffic over the three hours, so it is a great opportunity to run an event and almost guarantee some participation or attendance. We just had our first collab with commuKNITy and we think it went really well! We have upcoming collabs planned with Students for Collective Resistance Vic, VOICES, and the Computer Science Students Union. If you are interested in doing this (as a commission, exec, councillors, etc.), you can fill out a google form to collab in our instagram bio. We also had heart shaped pancakes which were very cute and will be doing again next week.

*Equity: Diana & Cam (2 minutes)*

Diana: We’re having two days of Equity Training for Clubs and Levies. We’ve had lots of engagement and discussions were great, we formatted it in a way that was digestible. We have two more tomorrow but yeah, thank you to Michael for your help. We’re going to have Environmental Equity week, so look out on Sustainability and Equity Instagrams for confirmation on our events. We’re hoping to have a Tuesday speakers panel, Wednesday story walk, and Thursday divestfest. For Ramadan, we’re planning on collaborating with other groups and the Gender Affirming Giveaway should be going up in the next few days.

*Mental Wellness: Julie & Vincent (3 minutes)*

Julie: Our budget got passed and we proceed with other events. We’re going to have a bullet journaling workshop, ceramic class at Gardiner, and we’re also planning ahead for the rest of the semester. We want to establish concrete Mental Wellness events that are consistent, and make sure the next mental welllness commissions have something to build off of, like the Weekly Wellness tea. I also want to encourage you all to have Mental Health training which you can access through CLNx. Please take care of yourselves, it’s a difficult time of year.

*Scarlet & Gold: Ninon (5 minutes)*

Ninon: Semi went really well and smoothly. Shoutout to Juhyung and Vincent with coat check, they were really on board with that. Thank you to everyone who was there and helped run the night. A lot of people are excited about Highball, yesterday I was asked multiple times in the evening about it. It’s gonna be really good and really nice.

Julie: Do we have the exact date for Highball?

Ninon: We’re confirming for March 17th.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

*VPE: Shane (5 minutes)*

Shane: We have Crescams and Caucus coming up so I’m planning for that. Please nominate people. Regarding Divestment there’s the UofT wide and Vic divestment. UofT committed to divestment but there’s no information on progress on those commitments. We don't know what the investments were in, so UofT may not be divesting completely, and the statements and reports have no commitment to completely divesting. Amy and Aaron from climate justice were looking into that but were shut down by the Varsity. If we don’t know what UofT’s commitment is we don’t know if they’ve actually divested. The Board decided last year to consider divestment, and we also want reports from office on those commitments. For Ramadan, the DO is asking what the needs are, and they’re prepared to meet any accommodations needed. There’s a committee being formed to prepare for it, but I don’t know if VUSAC is on that. For the food kiosk there’ll be a separate fridge. In terms of crisis response we talked to the DO and the case records are held under FIPAA. There’s also a distinction between the police and campus safety–apparently campus safety doesn’t carry firearms, but that doesn’t really make a difference when you don’t have good experiences with police. It’s a case by case basis on if they’re called. In terms of course content, they’re expanding their education and training, and switching up their methodologies and teaching. A lot of the methodologies are colonial so it’s interesting to see how else they can teach. In regards to Stephenson house, there’s an article coming out in the Strand, and you can expect that in the next paper–it has interviews with former members, and it highlights a lack of student consultations made. I never could have hoped to live on campus and the high residence fees results in students living on residence are those of higher income. We can’t say we’re diverse when this is the case. Students need to be included in these conversations.

*VPI: Jackson (5 minutes)*

Jackson: I’ve had my check-ins with councillors and I would remind you all to include them more in conversations being had and decisions being made in their portfolio. Councillor is introductory because you’re supposed to help guide them get adjusted in these roles. I think what’s happening is that we’re adjusting as well so we’re having a hard time delegating and just doing it ourselves. At the end of the day they do want to get involved. I urge you to include them more in the decisions being made, because you are setting up the future for VUSAC. If you don’t I will be following up with you. For Gardiner–Amelia you did great, thank you Ali for helping we couldnt have done it without a lot of your advice and the volunteers we couldn’t have done it without you. Orientation Executive application are due today, please consider it, you’d all be great candidates. In terms of Lara’s discussion with the office hours it’s important that there’s only so much a physical space can do and how inviting we are as council members will also rely on office hours. We introduced it as carefree but you do have a duty to be there and attentive. It’s a stress-free two hour commitment but people aren’t feeling welcome in the space. I will follow up but try to be more attentive and welcoming. Thanks to the first year councillors for speaking up and I appreciate that. For SAD lamps we’re looking into a contract where there’s an agreement. Last year I thought of setting some up in the VUSAC office and budgeting plants and I’m going to pick that up again, it’s a great way to welcome people in the space. Be safe out there y'all especially on the TTC.

*VPSO: Michael (5 minutes)*

Michael: Hello everyone, I’ll be quick with my updates this time because this has been a long meeting and very cold day. Firstly, I have finished my levy head check-ins and I am very happy with how they are operating, and have been actively engaging with Vic student life. I have also started up my club head check-ins to see how they are all doing, and where I can support their functioning. Also, before budget ratification, I held my All Club Heads Meeting. At that meeting, we reviewed how Vic clubs and VUSAC function, and ideas to encourage more engagement from students. One of the things will be hiring fairs for clubs and levies in the spring since many of them will have open executive positions. I also went through the hiring process for VISA, and we now have a full executive team. There were many qualified candidates, and I am very happy with our team, and I know that they will do a great job launching the new VISA, leading events and advocacy work on behalf of international students. It’s been a long journey here, and I know that the re-launched levy will be a massive support for international students. I also chaired the Cat’s Eye Advisory Board today, which I talked about earlier when we passed the new Cat’s Eye Operating Policy. Jerico and Lesley gave great updates showing that the Cat’s Eye is doing very well. The changes to the operating policy better align it with the actual functions of the space. Lastly, I wanted to mention that Diana and I ran two exceptional equity trainings if I do say so myself. The new in-person framework created vibrant discussions on equity and how to incorporate it into event planning. I do it almost every update, but I wanted to give another thank you to Diana for their rich knowledge of equity, and their ability to share that information in a digestible, accessible, and fun way. Diana has done such a wonderful job helping run this training, and I am sincerely grateful. Please stay safe and warm!

*President: Sooyeon (5 minutes)*

Sooyeon: For Ramadan planning, we’re working with the Spiritual Life and Community person of Daniel’s, which Vic doesn’t have. Emmanuel has spaces which are designated prayer space and if anyone is interested in seeing the space we can organize something together. For general council members, we’re going to start taking data and note the number of people that are walking into the office. When holding events, take headcounts because we need to prove that GSC is being used in it’s full capacity and for programing we can do a Google form to see how many are coming in.

*Motion: Zoe Lazaris motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diana Vink.*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.*